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THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2. NUMBER 4

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Hello out there in T/S land--- we hope that you are all still with us. We need now, more than ever, to show our support for our group and our machines. We, the Officers and staff of the newsletter, want to stress the fact that we will continue to support you to the best of our abilities. We also wish to thank you for your support.

MEETINGS

We were planing, as per the vote taken at our March meeting, to move our meeting night to the first Thursday of the month from our regular second Friday. But, as those things sometimes go, we ran into a snag. All other rooms and nights were booked solid for the next quarter. As we will have to move the meeting to Thursday for the Summer quarter anyway, we plan to make it permanent at that time, providing we can get a room at that time. We will keep you informed.

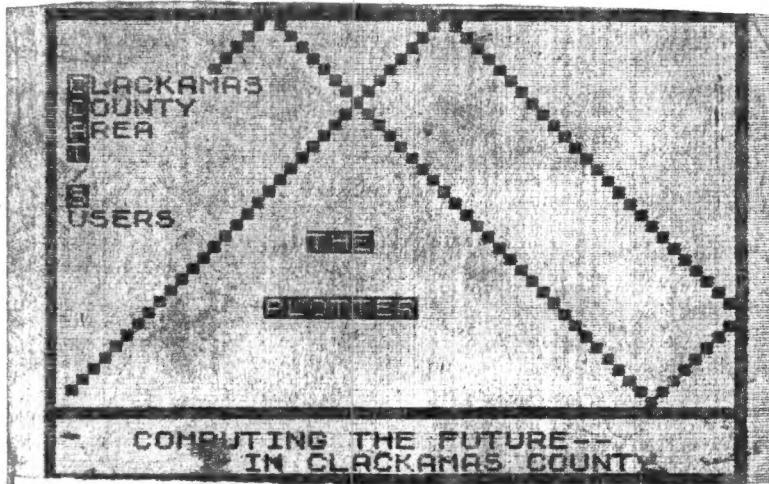
Our next meeting will be held:

on: FRIDAY, APR. 12th
at: 7:00 P. M.
in: ROOM 142, CLAIRMONT HALL
CCC

We certainly hope to see all of you there.

THERE WILL BE DEMONSTRATIONS,
NEWS AND REFRESHMENTS.

BE THERE >>>



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BITS and BYTES

Lots of news this month, some of it is good and some is not. As you know by now, TIMEX has dropped its entire line of home computers and related products. As of this writing, we have been unable to find out if any other company has any plans to pick up the line. As the Users Groups in San Francisco Bay area wrote in their latest newsletter, if any of them has any plans to do so, they had better jump quick before the pool is dry. If they wait too long, people will give up and may move on to something else. We, as T/S supporters and enthusiasts, would sure hate to see that happen.

As for other suppliers, we have been in contact with a lot of them in the past two or three weeks and can happily report that a lot of them are not only staying in the business, but are actually planning some new and exciting products for our machines. We will try to keep you posted.

SINCLAIR RESEARCH: Sources at Sinclair said that they have no plans at all to take over any part of the Timex operation. Their only planned products slated to be sold in the US are the Pocket Flat Screen TV, due to arrive in mid summer, and the new Sinclair QL, due to arrive by mail in late summer or early fall.

TIMEX: At this time they tell us that they will continue to honor all warranties at the repair center in Littlerock, AR.

SOFTSYNC: They have just introduced a new line of software for the 2068 and they plan to continue development of new items.

SYMMETRY

BYTE-BACK CO.: They have many plans for new products in the future. There is now a local dealer for their products, RMG Enterprises, owner, Rod Gowen. They have just introduced their new modem for the 2068, the MD68. The owner of the company, Jerry Minchey, said that with over 3 million Sinclair and T/S computers out there, he was planning to have a very profitable year, both monetarily and in product development and support.

GESSO SOFTWARE: Bob Orrfelt, the owner of Gesso, is the man who wrote the book HIGH FALLOUTIN' COMPUTIN' and the WP32 WORD PROCESSOR for the 2068. As you can see, it does a fine job. We are using it to put this newsletter together. RMG is also a dealer for GESSO.

THOMAS B. WOODS: The man responsible for ZX PROFILE says, in a letter to his customers, that he has released the new PROFILE 2068 several months early in an effort to prove his continued support of us, the USERS.

We hope that these bits of news regarding suppliers will help someone out there to decide to stick with us. As for us, the officers of the Group and this publication, we plan on staying around for awhile. WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US????

OOPS!

We want to make a correction to the COMBAT program that was submitted by Jack Armstrong. In order to get the proper graphics, you need to add a line:

1000 PRINT AT 10,8;A\$

We hope you enjoyed it anyway.

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ZX/T/S
P ans R

We wish to thank all members who have sent in listings. We WILL use them as space allows.

This month our short program is indeed very short. It comes to us from ZX Computing and, I think that it should be tried out on the 2068 as well as black and white computer for which it was written. Thank you Simon Mills.

```
5 LET C=40
10 CLS
20 LET A=RND#20
30 LET B=RND#20
40 PLOT A,B
50 PLOT B,A
60 PLOT C-A,C-B
70 PLOT C-B,C-A
80 PLOT A,C-B
90 PLOT B,C-A
100 PLOT C-A,B
110 PLOT C-B,A
120 IF INKEY$="" THEN GOTO 20
130 RUN
```

LINE NOTES:

20-30 Generate random co-ordinates.
40-110 Plot the pattern
120-130 Clear screen if key is pressed.

Our 2068 program comes this time comes from the book THE TIMEX SINCLAIR 2068 by Roger Valentine.

PIANO

```
10 LET n$="q2w3er5t6y7ui9o0p"
      "
20 DIM a(256)
30 FOR j=1 TO 17:LET a<CODE
      n$(j)+1=j
40 NEXT j
50 LET i=CODE INKEY$+1
60 IF a(i) THEN BEEP .5,a(i)-1
70 GO TO 50
9000 SAVE "PIANO" LINE 0
```

This short program redefines the top row of letter keys (QWERT-YUIOP) to be the white keys of a piano and the proper number keys above them to be the black piano keys. The letter "E" produces the note E. Q will produce C. The number 4 is not used.

LINE NOTES:

10 Sets up the new array that changes the pitch of the BEEP.
30+50 Adjusts by +1 and -1 to compensate for the fact that the character code starts at 0 and our array starts at 1.
60 Also rejects any keypress which has no redefined value, and produces a 1/2 second VEEP for the piano keys.

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T/S HELPLINE WILL BE BACK
NEXT TIME

16K?

PEEK?

32K?

POKE? 64K?

ARTICLE

HOW TO CHANGE RAMTOP PART TWO

by

DICK WAGNER

(NOTE: Part one was in last month's newsletter)

The general procedure for lowering RAMTOP in increments of 1/4k (256) was given in Part 1. Here is the reasoning for those who like more than blind faith.

The Sinclair memory system includes a variable upper limit called RAMTOP. When the computer first powers up, the micro-processor, MP, inputs a binary number 2 into each memory cell, or address, in the RAM. Then the MP interrogates each address. When it finds an address without a binary 2, MP calls this the top limit of memory. This information is stored in dedicated memory addresses 16388 and 16389. This information can only be changed by actually changing the address of RAMTOP.

Part 1 gave this direct command to determine the present RAMTOP address:

```
PRINT PEEK 16389*256+PEEK  
16388
```

This command will cause the address to be printed at 0,0 and will be applicable to your computer memory capacity. If the numbers are smaller than those given in Part 1 either there is a defective memory cell or RAMTOP has already been lowered. To return RAMTOP to standard 32767 address:

```
POKE 16388,0  
POKE 16389,128
```

change 128 to 72 for 2k of memory. To confirm the address PEEK again.

The address 16388 is filled with zeros in binary. If there are 8 then something is left over for address 16389. If there is only one bit over then it must be 256 as 2 to the 8 power equals 256, and the number to input into 16389 would be 1.

You may notice a RAMTOP address variation such as 32767 or 32768. 32767 is the actual address but to be above by 1 we use 32768. The following formula takes this into account:

```
POKE 16389, INT ((32768-mk)  
/256)  
POKE 16388, (32768-mk)-256*INT  
((32768-mk)/256)
```

where mk is the amount of memory we wish to store above RAMTOP and is not abbreviated as 2 1/2k (use 2500), etc. This formula will work only for 16k of memory so substitute if necessary. As mentioned at first 16389 & 16388 do not vary, only the record in them varies.

The computer is not particular about the two addressed locations being POKEd in special order as either 16388 or 16389 can be first.

FLASH!

We were pleased to find out from Kevin Fowler that PATS (Portland Area Timex Sinclair User Group) is still alive and kicking. We hope that they get a newsletter going soon.

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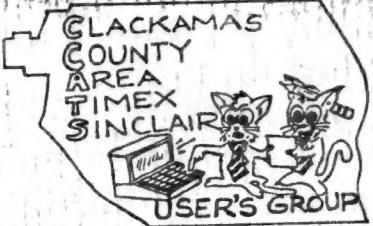
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK -

We hope that you like the new format that we are using. We think that it will allow us to put our newsletter together and get it to you as promptly as possible. With the current situation in the world of Timex-Sinclair, we as users and enthusiasts must work and pull together in order for our voices to be heard where it counts. As individuals we have very little to say about what the producers of products for our machines bring onto the market, BUT, as a collective group of potentially thousands of buyers and users, just think of the POWER. At this time, THE POWER IS TRULY WITHIN YOUR REACH!! Let's use that power.

TILL NEXT TIME THEN--

KEEP ON

PEEKing and POKEing>>>



WATCH THIS SPACE

SOON TO COME:

IN THIS SPACE,

*** THE CCAT/S ***

BULLETIN BOARD ***

If you have an item of software or hardware that you wish to buy, sell, or trade, please submit a short (no more than 432 character lines, including spaces) notice to us and we will print as many as space will permit.

JUST ONE MORE BENEFIT OF YOUR CCAT/S MEMBERSHIP!!

CCAT/S

1419 1/2 7TH STREET
OREGON CITY, OR 97045

NOTE!

Here's some news you may have already seen. For those of you who haven't, here it is. To our knowledge, it is still valid.

Dear Reader:

Good news for you...

We are the new publishers of TIMEX SINCLAIR USER Magazine. We intend to make TIMEX SINCLAIR USER businesslike, informative and practical so that it will be an invaluable companion to your Timex Sinclair home computer.

We appreciate your patience.

As you are aware, the past publishers of TIMEX SINCLAIR USER had difficulties meeting their publishing schedules last year. Consequently, you may have missed a couple of issues.

The April issue will be on press shortly.

You should receive it by the end of March. We have updated your subscription record to take into account any missed issues so you will receive the full subscription term you ordered.

Welcome back to the world of TIMEX SINCLAIR USER.

Sincerely,

James S. Povec
Publisher

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